

Other Religious

Nov. 17 '29 A.M.

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Cty In the Light of Other Religions.

Acts. 11:26 And the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Intro. Read Dot's letter.

Why do we believe Xty? Why the Gospel instead of other sacred writings?

Why are we not Buddhists or Mohamedans, instead of Xns?

Why are we Xns?

The religions of the world, like the people are being thrown closer together. Comparisons are inevitable.

I. There is much in common between the religions of the world.

1. The belief in one supreme being.

a. Jainism and Buddhism originally repudiated the idea of supreme being.

b. Confucianism teaches belief in one Supreme Being, personally as "Supreme Ruler" or impersonally as "Heaven"

But limited to the worship of the Emperor of China, and at that once a yr. Popular Confucianism teaches worship of many spirits, natural spirits and ancestor spirits.

c. Zoroastrianism sets forth one Cosmic Power which is supremely worshipful, Ahura Mazda. But also an opposing cosmic Power, Angra Mainyu, the arch-spirit of evil. Also recognizes other spirits.

d. Hinduism and Taoism both teach a Supreme Being, named Brahma and Tao respectively, to be meditated upon but not to be worshipped. But the popular teaching of these religions have been notoriously polytheistic.

e. Judaism up to Exile believed in One Supreme Being Jahweh, but acknowledged that other nations may worship other gods.

From the Exile Judaism has been consistently monotheistic.

2. Conclusion. Four religions that teach a genuine monotheistic belief- Post-exilic Judaism, Mohammedism, Sikhism and Xty.

While these 4 agree as to the oneness of God, Xty is unique as regards the moral character of God.

Neither Judaism nor Mohammedanism present a deity who in his own character is self-sacrificingly seeking the redemption of the world, and who in human history has been represented by a person of that same moral character.

Xty's teaching "has the highest possible moral content- a holy loving heavenly Father who actively seeks the welfare, trust, obedience, co-operation, love and worship of all mankind."

2. We pass by Incarnation, Inspired Writings, Miracles, and take up "The Golden Rule" which is supposed to be a summary and a test of all religion.
Read.

3. The Hope of a Universal Religion.

No time for detailed discussion,
~~Xty among the religions of the world~~ teaches a basis broad enough for a genuinely universal religion, that all human beings are children of a common Father-God.

Also Xty presents a practical constructive program for attaining unto universality- all Xns should engage in ~~the~~ loving self-sacrifice, in winsome religious testimony and in varied systematic service unto all the world.

II. Radical Dissimilarities of Xty from the other Religions

Three features of Xty which cannot be paralleled anywhere among the other religions.

1. The Character of God as a Loving Heavenly Father.

The idea of God as Father is a simple one and has been variously used in the different religions.

But the conception of God as Father has been given a very limited content of meaning.

Even in the canonical writings of Judaism, in which 25 references are made to God as Father, the meaning is restricted to God as Father of Israel or of them that fear him.

The noble conception of God as a Loving ~~Heavenly~~ spiritual

3.

Father of all mankind can be found only in Xty.

The N.T. is the only document among the canonical religious writings (scriptures) of the world which teaches that God is a universal heavenly Father, who in his love and righteousness experiences suffering for the sins of his human children and who is patiently and successfully helping to redeem men from their sins into the likeness of his own perfect character.

2. The Character of the Founder as Son of God and Brother of all man.

The nine founders of the eleven living religions of the world had outstanding characters attracting many followers.

Two—Buddha and Mahavira were so strong-minded that they themselves needed no divine help, even though they taught the law of Karma. *As a man, however, shall he also reap*

All of the nine with the exception of Jesus Christ are reported to have passed thru a preliminary period of uncertainty, in their search for religious light.

Confucius late in life confessed his own shortcomings and his desire for further improvement in knowledge and character. All the founders of the non-Xn religions showed inconsistencies in their characters.

Jesus Christ alone is reported to have had a consistent God-consciousness, a consistent character himself and a consistent program ~~of~~ for his religion.

The comprehensiveness and universal availability of Christ's character is remarkable, as well as its consistency, loftiness and sinlessness.

A normal man, growing up naturally from babyhood ~~yet truly Son of God~~, living consciously in the Eternal with God as his Father and all men as his brothers.

3. The work of a Divine Universal Holy Spirit.

Xty is the only religion which teaches that there is at work in the world a divine Holy Spirit, indwelling, teaching, reprimanding, inspiring, transforming, available for every individual who will open his heart to this divine inner influence.

These three distinctive features of Xty may be stated thus:

a. In God there is something eternal, the creator of all things and the Father of all mankind.

b. In God there is something historic. In the gracious character of Jesus Christ God has made his character and nature known unto us.

c. In God there is something progressive. That aspect of God which like a continual companion is leading human life forward, known to us as the Holy Spirit of God.

However involved these three are ^{inwardly} in theological implications, nevertheless, they are of most practical value and have been tested in rich experience that cannot be gainsaid.

"Run the disciples were called
thence first at Antioch."

If a delegation from China,
Japan, India & other
countries should come to Palestine
would they call us here?
because of our lives & conduct
they could see the Christ right
truly portrayed!